

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An *E. coli* strain comprising:

- a) a disrupted endogenous phosphoenolpyruvate-glucose phosphotransferase system ~~preventing expression of active PEP-glucose phosphotransferase system proteins~~ comprising one or more of:
 - i) a genetically disrupted endogenous *ptsH* gene preventing expression of active phosphocarrier protein;
 - ii) a genetically disrupted endogenous *ptsI* gene preventing expression of active phosphoenolpyruvate-protein phosphotransferase; and
 - iii) a genetically disrupted endogenous *crr* gene preventing expression of active glucose-specific IIA component;
- b) ~~an a genetically~~ up regulated endogenous *galP* gene encoding active galactose-proton symporter, ~~said up regulation resulting in an increased galactose-proton symporter activity;~~
- c) ~~an a genetically~~ up regulated endogenous *glk* gene encoding active glucokinase, ~~said up regulation resulting in an increased glucokinase activity;~~ and
- d) a genetically down regulated endogenous *gapA* gene encoding active glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase, said down regulation resulting in a reduced glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase activity;

whereby said *E. coli* strain is capable of bioconverting a suitable carbon source to 1,3-propanediol.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The *E. coli* strain of Claim 1 ~~Claims 1 or 2~~, comprising a genetically disrupted endogenous *arcA* gene preventing expression of active aerobic respiration control protein.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The *E. coli* strain of Claims 1, 2, or 3, further comprising one or more of:

- i) a disrupted endogenous *mgsA* gene preventing the expression of active methylglyoxal synthase;
- j) a disrupted endogenous *ackA* gene preventing the expression of active acetate kinase;
- k) a disrupted endogenous *pta* gene preventing the expression of active phosphotrasacetylase;
- l) a disrupted endogenous *aldA* gene preventing the expression of active aldehyde dehydrogenase A; and
- m) a disrupted endogenous *aldB* gene preventing the expression of active aldehyde dehydrogenase B.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The *E. coli* strain of Claims 1, 2, 3, or 4, further comprising one or more of:

- n) a disrupted endogenous *edd* gene preventing expression of active phosphogluconate dehydratase;
- o) a disrupted endogenous *glpK* gene preventing expression of active glycerol kinase; and
- p) a disrupted endogenous *gldA* gene preventing expression of active NADH-dependent glycerol dehydrogenase.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A method for the bioproduction of 1,3-propanediol comprising contacting the *E. coli* strain of Claims 1 or 3 ~~Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5~~ with a suitable carbon substrate under suitable conditions.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 6, wherein the *E. coli* strain further comprises:

- (i) glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase;

- (ii) glycerol-3-phosphatase;
- (iii) dehydratase; and
- (iv) dehydratase reactivation factor.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An *E. coli* strain comprising

- a) a disrupted endogenous phosphoenolpyruvate-glucose phosphotransferase system ~~preventing expression of active PEP-glucose phosphotransferase system proteins comprising one or more~~ of:
 - i) a genetically disrupted endogenous *ptsH* gene preventing expression of active phosphocarrier protein;
 - ii) a genetically disrupted endogenous *ptsI* gene preventing expression of active phosphoenolpyruvate-protein phosphotransferase; and
 - iii) a genetically disrupted endogenous *crr* gene preventing expression of active glucose-specific IIA component;
- b) ~~an~~ a genetically up regulated endogenous *galP* gene encoding active galactose-proton symporter, said up regulation resulting in an increased galactose-proton symporter activity;
- c) ~~an~~ a genetically up regulated endogenous *glk* gene encoding active glucokinase, said up regulation resulting in an increased glucokinase activity;
- d) a genetically down regulated endogenous *gapA* gene encoding active glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase, said down regulation resulting in a reduced glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase activity;
- e) a genetically disrupted endogenous *arcA* gene preventing expression of active aerobic respiration control protein;
- f) ~~an~~ a genetically up regulated endogenous *ppc* gene encoding active phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase, said up regulation resulting in an increased phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase activity;

- g) an a genetically up regulated endogenous *btuR* gene encoding active cob(I)alamin adenosyltransferase, said up regulation resulting in an increased cob(I)alamin adenosyltransferase activity;
- h) an a genetically up regulated *yqhD* gene encoding active alcohol dehydrogenase, said up regulation resulting in an increased alcohol dehydrogenase activity;
- i) a genetically disrupted endogenous *mgsA* gene preventing the expression of active methylglyoxal synthase;
- j) a genetically disrupted endogenous *ackA* gene preventing the expression of active acetate kinase;
- k) a genetically disrupted endogenous *pta* gene preventing the expression of active phosphotransacetylase ~~phosphotrasacetylase~~;
- l) a genetically disrupted endogenous *aldA* gene preventing the expression of active aldehyde dehydrogenase A;
- m) a genetically disrupted endogenous *aldB* gene preventing the expression of active aldehyde dehydrogenase B;
- n) a genetically disrupted endogenous *edd* gene preventing expression of active phosphogluconate dehydratase;
- o) a genetically disrupted endogenous *glpK* gene preventing expression of active glycerol kinase;
- p) a genetically disrupted endogenous *glcA* gene preventing expression of active NADH-dependent glycerol dehydrogenase; and
- q) one plasmid selected from the group consisting of
 - 1) a plasmid comprising
 - i) a first operon comprising genes encoding glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase and glycerol-3-phosphatase,
 - ii) a second operon comprising a ~~4.6 kbp~~ 4.6 kb promoter consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in bases 4046-4232 of SEQ ID NO:65, said promoter controlling genes encoding dehydratase and a gene encoding a first subunit of dehydratase reactivation factor,
 - iii) a third operon comprising a second subunit of dehydratase reactivation factor, and

- iv) having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:68;
- 2) the plasmid of SEQ ID NO:68, optionally containing orfW,
- 3) the plasmid of 1) or 2), wherein the first operon of i) is present in reverse orientation; and
- 4) the plasmid of 1), 2) or 3), where a ~~4.5-long-GI~~ promoter consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in bases 4046-4232 of SEQ ID NO:66 replaces the ~~4.6-long-GI~~ promoter in the second operon of ii),

whereby said *E. coli* strain is capable of bioconverting a fermentable carbon source to 1,3-propanediol.